

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-04 SAJ-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 /094 W

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R 301330Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1930

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 1 3 9

EO 11652GDS

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, XH

SUBJ: TOURISM

REF: A. MOSCOW 1338, REF B. STATE 265651

1. CONGEN DID NOT RECEIVE REF B AND OFFERS FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION TO THAT CONTAINED REF A.

2. ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW FIRM TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF HOTEL IN LENINGRAD ON BASIS OF CONTRACT WITH SWEDISH FIRM, AB SKANSKA CEMENTGJUTERIET. SWEDISH AND SOVIET SPECIALISTS ARE CURRENTLY WORKING ON COMPLETION OF BLUEPRINTS AND ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION AT VASIL' YEVSKIY ISLAND SITE, NEAR PASSENGER TERMINAL AND EXHIBITION GROUNDS,
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IS SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE IN MAY 1976 WITH AN OBLIGATED COMPLETION PERIOD OF THIRTY MONTHS. HOTEL WILL BE 17 STORIES IN HEIGHT AND IS

DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE 2,400 PERSONS, MOSTLY IN DOUBLE ROOMS. HOTEL'

RESTAURANTS, CAFES AND BARS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ADEQUATE FOR SERVING 3,000 PERSONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. SWEDISH CONGEN LENINGRAD INFORMS US THAT THEY EXPECT APPROXIMATELY 500 SWEDISH WORKERS AND DEPENDENTS TO BE INVOLVED IN HOTEL'S CONSTRUCTION. SWEDISH WORKERS WILL BE ACCOMMODATED ON VASIL'YEVSKIY ISLAND NEAR CONSTRUCTION SITE AND AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT SWEDISH MAY ESTABLISH OWN SCHOOL FOR ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN.

3. NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH FIRM HAVE APPARENTLY REACHED ACTIVE STAGE IN TERMS OF LENINGRAD CITY GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING SINCE CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSED HOUSING OF WORKERS AT SESSION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THIS FRENCH-BUILT HOTEL REPORTEDLY WILL ALSO BE SITED ON VASIL'YEVSKIY.

4. THESE HOTEL PROJECTS WILL BE FIRST REAL INVOLVEMENT OF FOREIGN CONSTRUCTION FIRMS IN CONSTRUCTION OF LENINGRAD HOTELS. THE EXISTING HOTEL LENINGRAD (NOT RPT NOT LENINGRADSKAYA) WAS SOVIET-BUILT WITH FINNS' ROLE LIMITED TO SUPPLYING VARIOUS FURNITURE AND FITTINGS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THOSE FOREIGN TOURISTS ACCOMMODATED AT EXISTING AND PROJECTED LENINGRAD HOTELS, A GREAT NUMBER OF WESTERN TOURISTS, MOSTLY AMERICANS, VISIT LENINGRAD DURING THE FAIR WEATHER MONTHS ON SCHEDULED PASSENGER VESSELS FROM WEST GERMANY AND HELSINKI. THESE TOURISTS ARE ACTUALLY ACCOMMODATED OVERNIGHT IN THEIR SHIP CABINS AND THUS POSE NO PROBLEM TO THE OVERLOADED HOTELS. AND THE SHIP-ACCOMMODATED TOURISTS ARE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE SOVIET UNION WITHOUT VISAS ON THE BASIS OF BORDER CONTROL CARDS ISSUED UPON DISEMBARKATION. CONGEN WAS TOLD BY DIRECTOR OF BALTIC STEAMSHIP COMPANY THAT THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO RPT NO PLANS TO INCREASE THIS CATEGORY OF SEABORN TOURISTS SINCE OPERATION COSTS OF PASSENGER VESSELS AND CORRESPONDING FARES TO OFFSET THESE COSTS WERE SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO INHIBIT EXPANSION IN FORESEEABLE PERIOD AHEAD.

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Message Attributes

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